

Appl. No.: 10/605,978
Amdt. Dated: 5/14/2004
Reply to Office action of: 05/06/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has required an election of one of four distinct species of the claimed invention determined by the Examiner to be claimed in Applicants' application. Specifically the Examiner states, "This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A is directed to Figures 1 – 2 and 5 – 6 and claims 1 – 12 and 15 – 18;

Species B is directed to Figures 3 – 4 and claims 7;

Species C is directed to Figures 7 – 8 and claims 6; and

Species D is directed to Figure 9 and claims 15 – 18.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, there appears to be no claim, which is generic to all species.

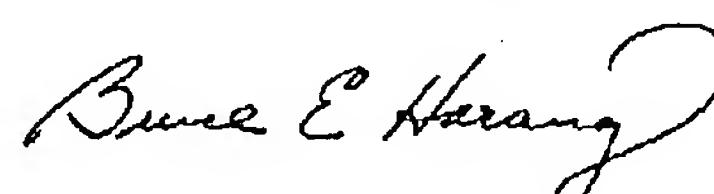
With regard to claims 13 – 14 and 19 – 20, no species apparently reads on these claims"

Applicant elects without traverse Species A – Figures 1 – 2 and 5 – 6 and (Claims 1 – 12 and 15 – 18); Applicant states that all the elected claims (Claims 1 – 12 and 15 – 18) read upon the species selected.

Applicant further states that there is no change in inventorship created by this election of species.

In view of the remarks herein, and the amendments hereto, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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